

# Department of Justice High-Risk Metropolitan Area Interoperability Assistance Project *Los Angeles, California*



## Addressing Interoperability

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Wireless Management Office (WMO) is working to improve long-term federal interagency communications across the Nation. As an interim step, and as a response to a request from the House/Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee staff, the DOJ WMO has been leading the High-Risk Metropolitan Area Interoperability Assistance Project (“25 Cities”) to provide targeted cities with basic and immediate interagency communications capabilities among local, state, and federal agencies during emergency response. Twenty-five cities were selected using criteria that included perceived risk and population size. As stakeholders in 1 of the 25 cities, Los Angeles metropolitan area, local, state, and federal public safety agencies have been working collaboratively with the DOJ WMO to address basic interoperable communications.

## Participating Agencies

Partnership among Los Angeles area local, state, and federal public safety agencies has been instrumental in the development of comprehensive interoperability solution sets. Participating agencies involved in the existing regional system included—

- Alhambra Police Department (PD)
- Arcadia PD
- Azusa PD
- Baldwin Park PD
- Beverly Hills Fire Department (FD)
- Burbank PD
- California Highway Patrol
- California National Guard
- Covina PD
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- El Monte PD
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Glendale FD
- Glendora PD
- Imperial County Communications Center (CC)
- Irwindale PD
- Kern County CC
- La Verne PD
- Long Beach PD
- Los Angeles City FD
- Los Angeles County FD
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Monrovia PD
- Montebello PD
- Monterey Park PD
- Orange County CC
- Pasadena PD
- Pomona County CC
- Porona PD
- Redondo Beach FD and PD
- Riverside County CC
- San Bernardino CC
- San Diego County CC
- San Fernando PD
- San Gabriel FD and PD
- San Marino FD and PD
- Santa Barbara CC
- Santa Fe Springs FD
- Santa Monica FD
- Sierra Madre PD
- Signal Hill PD
- South Pasadena FD and PD
- Torrance PD
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Navy/Marines
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- U.S. Secret Service
- Ventura County CC
- Vernon FD and PD
- West Covina PD

## Key Successes

DOJ and area stakeholders successfully achieved basic interoperability and emergency response communications improvements in the Los Angeles metropolitan area through the implementation of two interoperability solutions. The solutions support and upgrade the use of an existing regional system by expanding capacity and availability to more public safety agencies. Additionally, in the course of meeting this project's

interoperability goals, stakeholders were able to leverage and expand the working relationships among local, state, and federal agencies to resolve interoperability issues for the area.

The first solution leverages the existing Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communications System (LARTCS) fixed infrastructure, which supports interoperable communications among participating local, state, and federal public safety agencies. The interagency communications are achieved via two audio gateway switches located at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Communications Center. The first switch added to the LARTCS supports interoperability among local, state, and federal public safety agencies from Santa Barbara County to the U.S.–Mexico border. The second switch supports five additional interoperability channels. Effectively, these additional channels increase the capacity of the LARTCS to support mutual-aid channels used during emergency responses. In the summer of 2006, two additional VHF repeaters are to be installed using federal frequencies.

The second solution provides the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with two mobile audio switches to support on-scene interagency interoperability for ad hoc incident responses outside the area supported by LARTCS' fixed interoperability infrastructure.

## Moving Forward

The cooperation and support between participating agencies and DOJ WMO provided scalable solutions designed to give additional agencies access to the interoperability solutions. Sustained operations, maintenance, and support of these interoperability solutions will be coordinated by key stakeholders. These efforts, along with the area's long-term interoperability plans, will ensure continuity in addressing interoperable communications among public safety agencies in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

## Contact Information

If you would like to know more about this initiative and the interoperability solutions, please contact—

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